Gospel of Thomas Unearthed

Jesus' Sayings Found

NEW YORK (CP)—A collection of sayings of Jesus, including some not made public before, has been revealed by a biblical scholar.

Dr. Oscar Cullman, professor of early Christianity at the Sorbonne in Paris, said Wednesday night that although the manuscript was written by a member of a religious sect once persecuted by early Christians as heretical, it was "capable of enriching and furthering our understanding of the canonic gospel."

Dr. Cullman said the document is only a small portion of a series of discoveries.

He warned against the "sensationalism" of interpreting the discovery as a fifth gospel to be added to the writing of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

"The document calls itself in the title The Gospel of Thomas. However, it is actually not a gospel, but a collection of words of Jesus without a narrative framework . . .

"One hundred and fourteen sayings of Jesus are simply strung one after another with no more connection than the simple formula: 'Jesus said.'"

The importance of the find was that it contained a large number of words of Jesus which could be as old as the material in the four canonic gospels.

Dr. Cullman said the discovery was made in upper Egypt about 1946, at about the same time as the now-famous Dead Sea Scrolls.

"The basis of our collection is very probably an older collection of the sayings of Jesus from the first years after the crucifixion, a collection which is similar to the one Matthew and Luke knew. Mark probably knew a collection which was very similar to the one we have."

He said he has had a copy of the text for the last three years. The text is to be published soon.

Dr. Cullman said at least half of the newly-uncovered material originated in the middle of the second century, and the reviser of the present form was a Gnostic from that time who put the collection under the authority of the apostle Thomas.

Dr. Cullman said there are "truly some pearls" among the previously unknown sayings of Jesus.

"Jesus said: If those who lead you say to you: Behold, the kingdom is in heaven, then the birds of heaven will precede you; if they say to you that it is in the sea, then the fish will precede you. But the kingdom is within you and it is outside of you."

Another saying was:

"Jesus said: Woe to them the Pharisees, for they are like a dog lying in the manger of the cattle for he neither eats, nor does he let the cattle eat."

Jesus Christ, as portrayed by Alois Lang in Oberammergau Passion Play.

BIG AND SLOW

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59ers' 'Monstrosity' Will Be Replaced

DETROIT (UPI)—Detroit's adventuring 59ers, seeking a new life in Alaska, received a serious setback in B.C. in their 4,600-mile trek.

Curtis Potter of the Potter Moving and Storage Co., of Royal Oak, Mich., has informed the pioneers that he will arrange to pick up the $2,000 tab for a replacement for the "Monstrosity."

The Monstrosity was the name the Detroit families gave to a rickety 1934 Reo moving van they were using to haul land-clearing and farm equipment, household appliances and food supplies to the Kenai Peninsula.

Monstrosity split her frame in two on the Alcan Highway near Fort Nelson, B.C. in addition to the frame, the old van burned out her brakes and ruined her transmission on a steep grade.

Central Saanich Fireworks

Ex-Reeve Leads Fight

Battle between ex-reeve Sydney Pickles and present reeve, H. R. Rrown of Central Saanich added fireworks to a hearing on the municipality's proposed rezoning bylaw last night.

Mr. Pickles fired the first volley by moving adjournment of the hearing before it had properly started, on grounds it had not been "legally called under the Municipal Act."

He said if the council persisted with the meeting and went ahead with the zoning bylaw without a further public hearing "the inevitable result would be extensive and expensive legal proceedings against the council."

Mr. Pickles asked for an adjournment "for at least 30 and not more than 60 days."

He was promptly ruled out of order by Reeve Brown on the grounds the gathering was not a public meeting, but a council meeting with ratepayers invited to express their opinions.

Mr. Pickles then asked the council to retire so the gathering could conduct its own meeting with its own chairman.

The proposal was greeted with loud cheers and applause.

"You know better than that, Pickles," Reeve Brown said.

"I don't know what you are afraid of," Mr. Pickles responded. "Will you retire?"

The reeve gave an impatient snort in reply.

Actually the main objection voiced at the meeting was not against the zoning bylaw, but against a proposed sub-division bylaw which would limit subdividing of agricultural land to parcels of at least five acres.

"I've lived for 31 years on my farm," one woman called from the crowd. "Now you tell me I can't divide into residenial lots. How can I provide for my old age?"

"I think we should vote this council out," a male voice shouted.

It was finally adjourned for "at least 30 days" on a motion by Coun. W. F. Grafton after the gathering was told "only when public opinion is intelligently discussed will we take action."

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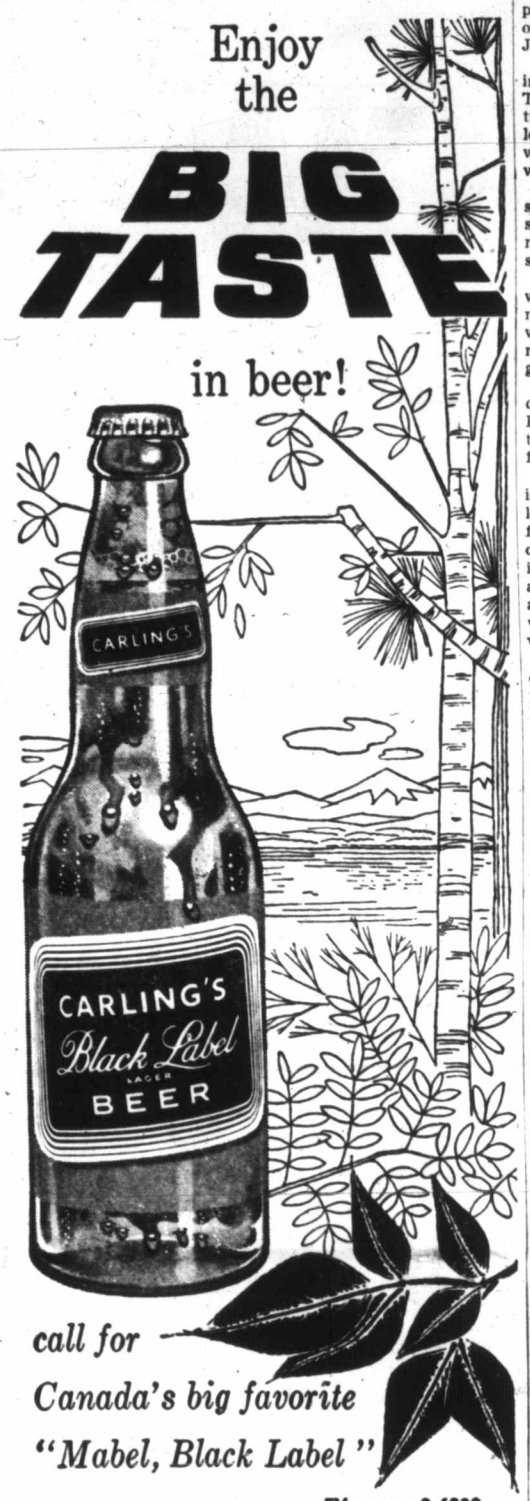

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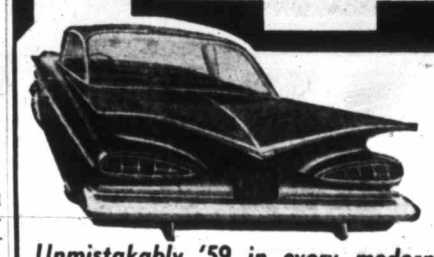

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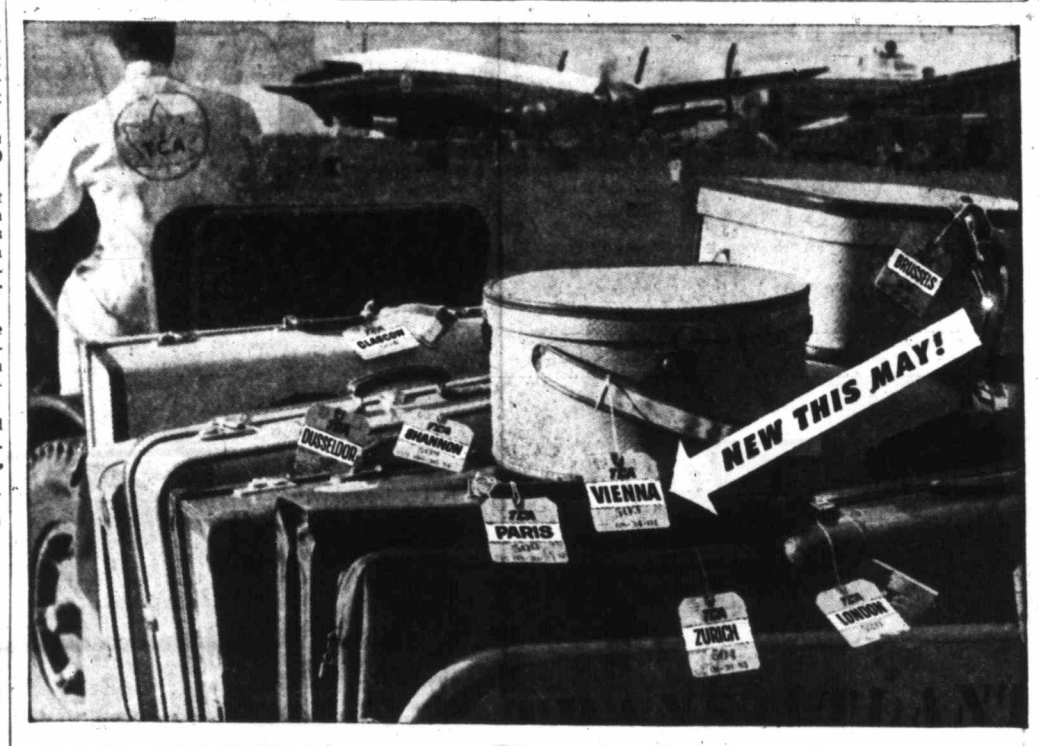

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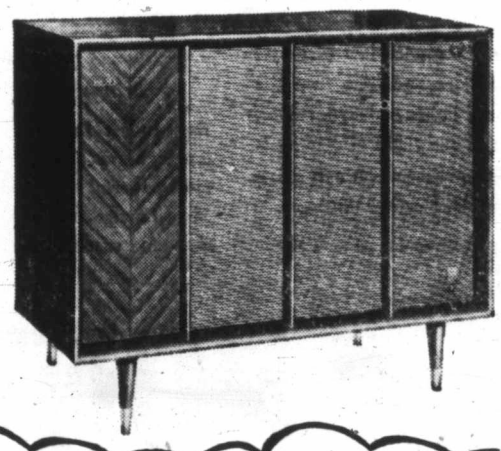

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